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ADDRESSES

BY

JAMES B. EDMONDS,

AS

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.





Class F 1

Book 1

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PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
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TO MY MOTHER AND SISTERS:

Complying with your request, so far as I now can, I collect for you (including some other personal friends) the addresses made by my husband as President of the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia. Two or three of them cannot now be recovered, and the "letters" are omitted, as they were usually the official expression of the entire Board concerning local matters not interesting to non-residents of the District. As the occasions of the addresses were only such as call for brief mayoralty speech, my husband fears you will be disappointed, and reluctantly consents to this reprint.

Lovingly,

LYDIA M. EDMONDS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *June 22d*, 1886.

*ADDRESS OF WELCOME, at the National Theatre, to
the Society of the Army of the Potomac, at its Reunion at
Washington City, May 16, 1883. (Published in the Report
of the Proceedings.)*

Gentlemen of the Society of the Army of the Potomac:

In behalf of the citizens of Washington, including the resident members of your Society, I am requested to bid you a welcome to this city.

You all know how poorly words express the welcome of generous hearts to old friends even in every-day life. How, then, can I tell the pleasure with which this city greets its former defenders through years of danger?

The fostering care and protection you bestowed upon this city in its day of weakness have made for it a warm place in your affections, which is fully reciprocated with a sentiment of regard and reverence for you such as a child entertains towards its faithful guardian or foster-parent, and you have a corresponding welcome.

How much less adequate must be any expression of the hearty welcome you have from your old comrades in arms, who, after long separation, now greet you at their homes midway between Gettysburg and Richmond, and amidst the very fields whose names, like your own, are made immortal by your deeds of valor.

We behold the fervor of your silent greetings, and are aware of the emotions that stifle utterance. We see that your thoughts have gone back into the past, and in memory you live over the days that really tried men's souls.

Again you fancy you hear the vain proclamations of folly and rashness that our beloved Union, its Constitution, and laws are at an end.

Again you make your adieus at home and fall into ranks, firmly resolved to do and dare, to suffer and die, if need be, for your country, and in defence of the sacred heritage from your fathers.

Again in memory you rendezvous at the National Capital and begin your years of weary marching, and watching, and terrible battles; again recall the well remembered forms and faces of less fortunate comrades who fell by your side, and were not permitted to see, save with the eye of faith, the final triumph of the good cause borne to successful conclusion by your indomitable courage. Again you revive the happy days of your great triumph, when in all this broad land no flag floated save the stars and stripes of a redeemed Union, when you again assembled at this capital for a final review and farewell, and received the thanks and plaudits of a grateful nation; then retired to your homes with a quiet dignity worthy of your valor, and matched only by that of the great men who achieved our national independence.

In the presence of such men, whose deeds glorify the pages of history, speech is too slow and is only a clog upon the swift thoughts and memories that flit before us.

We, therefore, limit words to a simple prayer that you may long live to see a united and happy people enjoy the beneficent fruits of your toils, and to receive their blessings therefor, even from your recent adversaries. In this National Capital, as indissolubly linked with your name and fame as with the Potomac itself, and which now blooms before you as beautiful as the country and institutions it symbolizes, you and your guests will ever have a welcome as cordial as it is deserved and appropriate.

RESPONSE to the Toast, "The City of Washington," proposed at a Banquet given to the Society of the Army of the Potomac, at the Abner Garden, Washington City, May 17, 1883. (Published in the Report of Proceedings.)

Surely it is not expected that I will introduce this city to the Army of the Potomac! I understand they are old friends, and, if a little domestic gossip be not too undignified for this occasion, I may add that for some years they have been regarded in the light of accepted lovers. Certainly this fair city has received from that Army many gallant attentions. You all remember some years ago when the States were rashly arming for a deadly strife, this border city, just out of her municipal teens, seemed with her dowry a tempting prize for the strongest suitor. Then the Army of the Potomac, more fleet than any suitor of Atalanta, with a dashing courage like that of the lover of Proserpine, came to the front, and, placing its standards upon the neighboring heights, sounded the bugle-blast of defiance to every foe, and especially to its rival of the James. And never was more earnest battle; not from the walls of Troy did Helen witness such fierce war as was waged before this city. Finally, when this knight of the Potomac unhorsed his adversary at Appomattox and proudly returned to this city for his well-deserved honors, she placed the laurels upon his brow with such blushes and sweet smiles it was evident her admiration was won. And worthy, indeed, of all attention that chivalry can bestow, is this fair daughter of Washington: for, as Virginia is his mother, so is this city his

daughter, and rightfully bears his great name. It was he who placed her abode, like his own, upon the banks of this beautiful river, and gave to her his last years of parental care. Under his eye her domains were surveyed and planned, her parks, avenues, and garden walks designated, and all according to the dignity, simplicity, and greatness of his character. On this slope, where he appointed, was raised the villa where Presidents lodge and Ambassadors are received. On that hill has arisen a domed temple fit for an assembly of the gods, where the representatives of the people and of the States meet to consult and frame laws for the common weal.

This city has become the municipal pride of the Nation, the adopted daughter of the States, and beloved by the people. Art and architecture have bestowed upon her their richest treasures. Her workshops are Grecian temples, statues adorn her streets, paintings her walls, and she is peerless among Republican beauties. Princes pay her court, Sages seek counsel of her experience, Ambassadors and Senators, Governors and Presidents, "partake of her feasts and deem their dignity increased." Above all, this city is broad in charity. She knows no sectional jealousy—no North or South—save as geographical divisions or as beloved portions of a common country; and I may, with her full approbation, say to you veterans of the Potomac, that, proud as she is of your valor in war, she blushes with a still deeper pride to behold your greater magnanimity in peace—to see when the war is ended that you are able to take the hand of your fallen but gallant adversary, and in a friendly spirit welcome him as an honored guest to your feasts. This is the very crown of chivalry, the highest triumph of a Christian civilization.

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS at a public meeting closing the festivities attending the German Bi-Centennial Celebration in Washington City, October, 1883, commemorative of the two hundredth anniversary of the first settlement in America by that people. ("Star," of October 10, 1883.)

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :

Your presence here this evening confesses the interest you take in our German fellow-citizens.

The Germans are a remarkable people, with a great history, and the interest we take in them is probably shared by all classes of our people, if not by all the world. Indeed, they have challenged the attention and interest of all Europe for two thousand years. Caesar and Tacitus tell the wonderful story of their heroic struggles with Imperial Rome—how, in defence of their liberties and fatherland, they unhesitatingly threw themselves almost bare-handed upon the well-armed, disciplined legions of that haughty power—and the great statue of Hermann now rises where, under his leadership, a whole army of those Roman invaders was destroyed.

To-day, more than a thousand years after the Roman Empire has ceased to exist, the Germans, still in the full vigor of national life, leaders in every art of civilization, hold all their ancient provinces, and defiantly stride both the Rhine and the Danube; and every power of Europe, however envious of their possessions, passes deferentially by.

Equally remarkable are the results achieved by this people in another land. Their tribes of Angles, Saxons, and Normans—all Germans—took possession of England,

and, adopting the name of Englishmen, as you do that of Americans, they have brought Great Britain to the very front of enlightened nations, and made her power felt and respected in every quarter of the globe. They, in turn, took possession of this portion of the New World, and through their colonies laid the broad foundations of what is now the world's greatest and freest republic.

Two hundred years ago the Germans in person began to follow their English cousins to the New World, and during the intervening period the ever-swelling tide of that people has increased to countless numbers, who, in their peculiarly earnest manner, have engaged in the affairs of government, in clearing wildernesses, and in following every art, trade, and profession known to American industry.

No historian can properly explain our history who does not give that people large credit for their share in this great work, or who fails to point out the extraordinary influence they have exerted upon our national character and institutions. Should he divide our people into three parts (as Cæsar did Gaul) he will say one part was German, and that it was especially characterized by that thrift that follows honest industry, by an abiding love of freedom and independence, which they were prompt to demand for themselves and to accord to others, and by an earnest patriotism, which led them to perform every duty required of good citizens, whether in peace or war. These are the essential elements of character that make and perpetuate great nations.

Therefore it is with great pleasure that we accept the invitation of our German neighbors to look with them this evening into the history of their two centuries of American life, well knowing the record is an honorable one, and that it will give abundant assurance that America will long be proud of her German children.

ADDRESS upon the occasion of conferring Diplomas upon the Graduates of the Spencerian Business College of Washington City, at Lincoln Hall, May, 1884. (Published with other addresses by the College.)

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :

We have all listened with attention and interest to the eloquent addresses of the graduates of a business college, and it has doubtless occurred to you, as it has to me, that for good thoughts and vigorous, felicitous English we are not compelled to look alone to the classical schools. These graduates have arrived at a very interesting period in their lives; they have reached the end of one course and are now ready to consider the next step. For many months past they have been engaged in this College, under the eye of a master, and of a mistress too, receiving practical lessons in business; have been employed as merchants, bankers, brokers, and agents, and have given personal attention to all the details of those businesses; keeping their accounts according to the most approved methods; learning the rules of law applicable to their various transactions, and doing all that is usual among men engaged in such employments in real life, with this notable exception, that the mistakes and failures in school, if any, have not been at the expense of real customers, nor have they involved any one in financial ruin—explained, perhaps, by the remark of one of the graduates, that the money they used in school had not the quality of legal tender.

Upon careful scrutiny and examination, it is now found that these graduates have fairly earned the diploma of

this College, its certificate which implies, if it does not expressly declare, that they have severally qualified themselves to enter upon business in real life for themselves or for others.

I need not tell you how valuable a good business knowledge is, for you know that it begins by qualifying its possessor to maintain himself and to be independent in the world; that it lies at the foundation of all fortunes honorably acquired, and is the best guardian of those that come by inheritance or gift.

He who has a good business training, though he have no gold, may, with health, win a fortune proportioned to his industry and perseverance; and for him a gold mine could do no more. Therefore, as friends and well-wishers of these graduates, we have assembled here to congratulate them upon their success, and to commend them for having begun their educational structure as good architects do great houses, by first laying a solid foundation, and leaving the ornamental and beautiful to wait upon the useful. To those of us who are so unfortunate as to have had our school training a quarter of a century or more ago, a business college is a novelty. It has been invented and developed since our boyhood days, and both for age and usefulness it may be classed with the reaper and the sewing-machine. We behold it as we do the spectroscope, the telephone, and bicycle, astonished both at its simplicity and its achievements, wondering that it was not introduced much earlier, and how the world got on so long without it. Only thirty or forty years since a boy desirous of a business education beyond the teaching of a common school, had the alternative of going to sweep a business office to take in knowledge by absorption, or of going to an academy or college to take a course of studies consisting largely of rhetoric and the dead languages. (I am told that base-ball and boating have since been added.) I have great respect for the dead languages.

They contain very much that is interesting and elegant in literature. The world is still raising monuments to their virtues, and especially to the Greek and Latin. They are the favorites of the learned professions. The doctors of medicine, I believe, are all agreed to write their prescriptions in a *dead* language, and I will not question the propriety of it. But the fact is, and ever will be, that a large proportion of the youth of this and other countries are wanting either in health, time, money, or disposition, to become book-worms, and require more active employment, and are entitled to be trained accordingly by the best masters in any department of honest industry. The intelligence and welfare of a people depend not so much upon the extreme culture of the few as upon a fair culture of the masses. I, therefore, hail a business college as an indispensable institution in a republic. It is, as a source of light to the people, compared with the purely classical school, what the oil well is to the ocean whale, more bountiful in supply, though it is obtained by methods less romantic; and I rejoice that this city, becoming famous for its schools, does not lag behind in this respect, as is shown by the class appearing before us this evening.

May the future of these graduates reflect honor upon their *alma mater* who now sends them forth with her diploma and her benediction!

ADDRESS OF WELCOME to the American Railway Master Mechanics' Association, representing nearly all of the American railways, and assembled in convention at Willard Hall, Washington City, in 1885, to consider what further improvements are possible in railway engines and other mechanisms to secure greater safety, speed, and economy in railway traffic. (Published in the 18th Annual Report of the Society.)

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN :

Of all the conventions that have honored the city of Washington by their presence, whether scientific, professional, or political, I know of none better entitled to the consideration and welcome of our citizens than that of the Railway Master Mechanics.

It is not so much that you came here in your own carriages drawn by your own horses that you are distinguished, as by the fact that your genius and labor produced the conveyances that bring all conventions and congresses that assemble in Washington, and thousands of people besides, and make this large city, with its prosperity and numberless comforts possible, and give it permanency as a National Capital.

Many times have I beheld an assembly that has commanded my complete respect and even veneration for its learning and wisdom, its magnanimity of intellect or heart, but never until now have I had the honor to stand before a congress of master magicians whose wondrous works in reality have outrivaled the tales of Oriental im-

agination, and even revolutionized the conditions of human existence. Beginning with Savery and James Watt, followed by Fulton, Stephenson, and other master mechanics, your fraternity has with matchless skill and boldness sought out and seized upon the secret forces of nature that for ages were hidden from the knowledge of man, and harnessing her powerful coursers to your cars you have gone forth like mighty giants to possess the earth.

Your contests have been, not through fields of blood for dominion over your fellow-man, but the struggles of intellect in the fields of science to exalt man's dignity, to improve his material welfare, and to assert the God-like supremacy of mind over matter.

You have fought battles with time and distance, have crossed continents, stopping neither for river nor mountain, and, like the Titans of old, have scorned all adversaries less than the Infinite.

With your progress the earth has seemed to shrink beneath your feet so that States and cities that were distant are brought into neighborhood relations, yet in such magical manner that no intermediate possession has been lessened, but all have been multiplied in value and usefulness. Indeed, you and your brother magicians—the master mechanics of navigation—have with your machinery seized upon the huge globe itself and shrunk its two-years' circumference into an eighty-days' circuit; at the same time you have marvellously enlarged the earth's capacity for human existence with improved conditions. Swifter, safer, cheaper travel and transportation have brought the peoples of the world together and into better acquaintance, have led them into a greater mutual dependence and brotherly regard, have banished national famines from the world and promoted peace among men.

But none better than yourselves are aware that there are still other victories to be won; that there are other laws to be discovered; other forces in nature and me-

chanics to be conquered ; and you, American Master Mechanics, ever alert, stand in the front ranks of battle determined to be the first to unfurl the flag of triumph and success in the new provinces that lie beyond. When you meet for consultation, to consider the new problems that arise, you are assured of the sympathy and good wishes of all who realize that your achievements are among the highest triumphs of modern science and civilization ; and by none is this fact more keenly appreciated than by the intelligent people of this National Capital, who take a lively interest in all that appertains to human progress or to the honor and welfare of America, and in their behalf I have the honor to extend to you a cordial welcome.

RESPONSE to the Toast—

“Washington City, the Capital of the Nation :

“Beauty such as thine the tuneful poet sings—

“To thee the world its present homage brings !”

proposed at a Banquet given at Willard's Hotel, by the Washington Gas Company, to the Gas Engineers and Experts from the principal cities of the United States, who had assembled in Convention at Washington City.

GENTLEMEN: My response to the sentiment just proposed must be chiefly a protest of my inability to respond in a manner worthy of the subject.

“Washington as the Capital of the Nation,” regardless of the poetry and beauty, is a gigantic theme. It brings in review before the mind all of the political history of our country from the adoption of the Constitution.

The name of any well-known Capital brings up at once by natural association its relations to the entire country, the character of the people, their national traits and struggles, and the spirit and genius of their laws and institutions.

To an American citizen what magic in the name of *our* National Capital! Upon its utterance not only the great man whose name it bears, but a long procession of Presidents seems to cross the stage before us, (the last one in line being by no means the least excellent.) With each President is called up the party contest, the great debate and election that brought him to the chief magistracy, and with him appear his official surroundings, his cabinet, his administrative acts and achievements, constituting an

historic drama full of interest to every student and entertaining to all—sometimes for its comedy, and sometimes, alas! for its deep tragedy.

Then, the panorama continuing, forty and more Congresses that have assembled here pass in review and suggest a history and biography equalled in bulk only by the Congressional Library itself—a volume of eloquence and rhetoric not to be measured even by your hugest gasometers—and recall to the spectator the heroes of every party and faction, the advocates of every political theory, or Utopian dream, possible in a great Republic.

Indeed, the name of this Capital awakens thoughts that rush in upon the mind of every American like the multitudinous waves of ocean, and crowd imagination and memory with men and events. I need not call up the illustrious and familiar names of legislation, diplomacy, and cabinet counsel, nor of the Supreme Bench and Bar, nor of those who have here added to the wealth of science and literature or adorned the walks of private life, nor of the brave men who have gone hence to uphold the Nation's flag on land or sea, nor even produce the huge volumes of Benton and Blaine, to illustrate the vastness of this theme, before which one inclines to stand silent, as astronomers do contemplating boundless space studded with stars.

Should we consider the National Capital with reference to beauty alone, the task of doing it justice would be hardly less difficult, and would require the aid of an inspired poet, such as the author of the sentiment just read. I will not even attempt a catalogue of the beautiful features and phases of this fair city so lovingly embraced by the Maryland and Virginia hills, nor attempt a description of what is so well known, and may be observed even by the light furnished by the Washington Gas Company.

You all know what genial skies are above us, and have doubtless sailed the broad river at our feet; from Capitol

Will have beheld the wondrous glory of our sunsets; have strolled through our shaded parks; passed along our broad streets and avenues, noting the city's varied architecture, and, through long vistas of beautiful trees, have caught glimpses of the bronze memorials to patriotism by American art.

I need not tell you how attractive to all Americans the White House is, for every school-boy knows it well, and fondly dreams of the hour when an appreciative people will invite him to dispense its hospitalities; nor depict the beauty of the Treasury with its graceful columns, its glittering gold, its bright silver, (worth, I regret to say, only 85 cents to the dollar), and its beautiful bonds, attractive even to free men. Nor need I dwell upon the elegance of the State Department, that eyrie of the American Eagle, whence with cautious eye he observes the conduct of both foreign bird and beast; nor point out the marvellous proportions of that dome whence the Goddess of Liberty watches over a land of Freedom; nor tell you of the gracefully tall column that is "the first to salute the glowing morn, and upon whose summit the rays of the setting sun love longest to linger and play." Nor will I pretend that I can do justice to what is so celebrated—the grace, beauty, and culture of the fair women who assemble here from all parts of our beloved country, and share with the Capital the praises of the poets and homage of the world.

But I will not fatigue you with further apologies, for you already realize that our "National Capital" is a theme rather for a Bancroft, a Motley, or a Macauley.

May this fair young city long grow in beauty and in the affections of the American people, and for many ages remain the worthy Capital of an indissoluble and happy Union, that will require no Gibbon to narrate its "decline and fall" by reason of excessive partizan feuds, political corruption, or unhallowed ambition.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME to those attending the 12th Annual Conference of Charities and Correction for the United States, held at Washington City, in June, 1885. (Published in the Proceedings of that Conference.)

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Conference :

You have assembled here from the different parts of the United States to consider subjects that, above all others, appeal for attention and sympathy to the nobility of human nature, namely, the distress, poverty, and crimes that spring from the weakness, disease, and misfortunes of mankind. You have heard the cries of the wrecked and drowning in the voyage of life, and your benevolent sympathies are aroused.

Although the evils you are about to consider are as old as history, and have not been limited as to time, place, or nationality, and would seem to be as enduring and widespread as humanity itself, yet believing that there may be alleviation if not cure, and recognizing the duty devolved upon all by the common brotherhood of man, you have in a spirit of heroic benevolence devoted yourselves to the thorough investigation of these evils as they exist to-day, determined to learn as far as possible the laws of their origin and growth, and the best means for their prevention or reformation, and how you may, like skilled husbandmen, destroy the noxious weeds and cause a poor or neglected soil to produce good fruit.

Adopting the modern scientific method of investigation, you have organized as a corps of volunteer workers and observers to make, each in your special domain, a close

study of these subjects in all their phases, to meet in Annual Conferences to report and record the results of your several observations, experiments, and reflections, and return again to your respective fields of labor with the accumulated knowledge and experience of the entire corps.

This method, persevered in by the intelligent and benevolent of a whole country, is a sure guaranty that the problems of charity and criminal correction are to receive a more enlightened consideration; that legislators, aided by your studies and experience, will frame wiser laws both for State and national purposes, to be surely followed by the ultimate crowning result that human misery in all its varied forms will be lessened or mitigated in every State, city, and village of the land—a result that will reflect upon those who achieve it an honor more brilliant and enduring than is gained by any monarch or statesman, whatever his genius or success, who follows a merely selfish ambition.

The people of this capital city, who experience their full proportion of the common evils, recognize the unselfish and sacred character of your labors, and that you bestow an honor upon the town where you assemble. They, therefore, who have hospitable greetings for all the good citizens of the United States, extend to you their most cordial welcome, as due both to your cause and to your self-sacrificing devotion; and in so declaring I believe I only echo the common sentiment of this community.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME to the Public Health Association, (composed of Physicians, Scientists, and others, from various parts of the United States and Canada,) at its Annual Conference held at Williard Hall, Washington City, in December, 1885. (Published in the Association's Report.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Public Health Association :

I come in behalf of the citizens of the District of Columbia, as well as the local government, to say that they extend to you a cordial welcome.

They welcome you, not only as eminent citizens of your country and worthy representatives of the great republic of Science, but also for the noble cause that brings you together, and to which you have given many years of service.

I know of no grander moral spectacle than such an association of men, from all parts of the continent, well qualified for the work, prompted solely by a spirit of kindness and love of science, freely devoting their time and money to the study and solution for the people of the great problems that often involve the health and life or disease and untimely death of thousands.

I know of no labor so urgently demanded of science and benevolence, none that is so well entitled to the active co-operation of all society, none that would better promote civilization or more happily express the enlightenment of the age in which we live.

In past ages the three greatest enemies to national welfare and happiness have been war, pestilence, and famine. Until the present century all these were considered as beyond the realm and reach of human science, and were

accepted as the mysterious scourges of Providence whereby nations were chastised for their sins.

Within the present century, however, the genius and perseverance of man have created new possibilities. He has so wrought upon steam, electricity, and other forces of nature, that not only are the products of the earth vastly increased, but by means of rapid communication all the nations are brought into close relations, one easily supplying what another lacks, and thus national famines have disappeared from the world together with the ignorance that tolerated them.

Your association suggests that it is now time to enter upon another stage of civilization. You boldly avow that men should no longer cringe and cower before pestilence, nor flee from its approach as from an irresistible, devouring demon, but should turn upon it and wage a war of subjugation, a war in which you, gentlemen, have already enlisted as volunteers and raised the standard of man's emancipation. You claim that disease and pestilence are not the rightful masters of man; that they tyrannize over him only because of his own ignorance or cowardice; that they are only the humble subjects of Nature that come and go in obedience to her laws, as the waters rushing from the mountains devastate the plains below only until man's genius provides safe conduits to control their course.

Your theory respecting pestilence is like that first propounded by Franklin as to lightning, that by proper precaution it may be rendered harmless. Lightning had through the ages been a terror to mankind until it occurred to that philosopher that it might be received upon a metallic point and conducted into the earth.

So Asiatic cholera, subtle as lightning and terrible as war, that has periodically visited Europe from its earliest history, and counted its victims by the million, may, as you believe, together with yellow fever and other destroy-

ing epidemics, be received—not, indeed, like lightning, upon metallic points, but at quarantines along the coast, where by proper precautions they will be destroyed or conducted safely away : or, should they insidiously escape to the interior, that every city and hamlet may be so defended that the baffled monster must pass harmless by.

I have implicit faith that victory will ultimately crown your efforts. The logic of science declares in your favor, and every consideration of humanity urges you onward, yet I need not tell gentlemen of your experience and wisdom that there may be temporary failures and long delays, for, as everyone knows, the laws of Nature are not easily read, and she sometimes yields her mysteries only to the third or fourth generation of them that serve her. Nor do we forget that your contest is with a veteran foe.

Disease, that hateful and miscreant offspring of violated law, is as old as the human race, and is as familiar as it is vicious and impudent. It sits unbidden at our tables, lies in our beds, robs us of many pleasures, and even destroys our best friends, yet so multiform and subtle is its nature that none can seize upon it or tell us precisely what it is, and those who have contended against it longest are compelled to admit that their success thus far is only partial, and that many a stronghold of the enemy is yet to be taken.

But ground has been gained in this contest and there is much reason for encouragement. And never was battle waged for better cause or grander results. Your war is not to kill but to preserve life. It is for the benefit of all mankind, and you are entitled to a corresponding support; entitled to appropriate legislation, and, if need be, to levy contribution upon every science, art, and industry; entitled always to the welcome, sympathy, and earnest co-operation of every municipality in the land, and nowhere, I believe, will these be more cheerfully accorded than here at the National Capital.

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